

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image coder which compares a predetermined number of orthogonal transformation factors from an orthogonal transformation unit with quantization thresholds equal in number to the orthogonal transformation factors, and selectively quantizes the orthogonal transformation factors on the basis of the comparison result in coding processing, comprising:

a first scan converter, adapted to rearrange ~~for rearranging~~ the orthogonal transformation factors in a first scan sequence which is different from a zigzag scan sequence and ~~outputting output~~ the predetermined number of the rearranged orthogonal transformation factors at a time; and

a second scan converter, adapted to rearrange ~~for rearranging~~ quantized orthogonal transformation factors in ~~[[a]]~~ the zigzag scan sequence and ~~outputting output~~ the rearranged quantized orthogonal transformation factors.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The coder according to claim 1, wherein the first scan sequence is a sequence in which odd-numbered samples are arranged in a forward direction

from a start of the zigzag scan sequence, and even-numbered samples are arranged in a reverse direction from an end of the zigzag scan sequence.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The coder according to claim 1, wherein the first scan sequence is a sequence in which odd-numbered samples are arranged in a forward direction from a start of a raster scan sequence, and even-numbered samples are arranged in the forward direction from an end line of the raster scan sequence.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The coder according to claim 1, wherein the first scan sequence is a sequence in which odd-numbered samples are arranged in a forward direction from a start of a raster scan longitudinal sequence, and even-numbered samples are arranged in the forward direction from an end line-of the raster scan longitudinal sequence.

8.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) An image coding method of comparing a predetermined number of orthogonal transformation factors with quantization thresholds equal in number to the orthogonal transformation factors, and selectively quantizing the

orthogonal transformation factors on the basis of the comparison result in coding processing, comprising:

a first scan conversion step₁ of rearranging the orthogonal transformation factors in a first scan sequence which is different from a zigzag scan sequence and outputting the predetermined number of the rearranged orthogonal transformation factors at a time[[s]]; and

a second scan conversion step₂ of rearranging quantized orthogonal transformation factors in [[a]] the zigzag scan sequence and outputting the rearranged quantized orthogonal transformation factors.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing [[a]] an image coding program for causing a computer to compare a predetermined number of orthogonal transformation factors with quantization thresholds equal in number to the orthogonal transformation factors and selectively quantize the orthogonal transformation factors on the basis of the comparison result in coding processing, comprising:

[[a]] code for [[the]] a first scan conversion step₁ of rearranging the orthogonal transformation factors in a first scan sequence which is different from a zigzag scan sequence and outputting the predetermined number of the rearranged orthogonal transformation factors at a time[[s]]; and

[[a]] code for [[the]] a second scan conversion step, of rearranging quantized orthogonal transformation factors in [[a]] the zigzag scan sequence and outputting the rearranged quantized orthogonal transformation factors.

26. (Canceled)